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LETTER DATED 27 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, a letter by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Mate Granić, addressed to you.

I would request your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 27 December 1993 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with great concern that I write to you today. The developments since the latest round of Geneva negotiations, marked by continuous fighting and civilian casualties, especially in Central Bosnia, are deeply disturbing. My Government is coming under increasing public pressure to take stronger measures to aid the imperiled Croat population in Central Bosnia. The continuation of the Muslim offensive in Central Bosnia could lead to a larger Croat-Muslim conflict with grave consequences.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the Sarajevo Muslim leadership has opted for war against the Bosnian Croats. My Government, however, insists on peace and a just settlement which would open a way for lasting cooperation between the two peoples and for stability in the region. We appeal for your assistance so that the latter option may prevail. In this regard, we respectfully request an emergency meeting of the Security Council, and call on the Security Council once again, to declare the besieged Bosnian Croat enclaves as safe areas, consistent with the principles of Security Council resolutions 819 (1993) and 824 (1993).

The belligerent policy pursued by the Sarajevo Muslim leadership against the Bosnian Croats, if not immediately reversed, may compel my Government to re-evaluate its policy with respect to Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to reconsider its support for substantial concessions by the Bosnian Croat delegation.

The Croatian side has entered the negotiations with the Muslim side in good faith; actively and consistently pursuing full normalization of relations. My Government has helped the Bosnian Muslim refugees more than any other. We have paid the utmost attention to the problems in respect of international humanitarian law in the area controlled by the Bosnian Croat authorities. Substantial progress has been made in this regard. In the last month, for instance, over 18,000 tons of aid has passed freely through the Bosnian Croat controlled areas. Since June 1993, The Bosnian Croat authorities have unilaterally released more than 5,600 Muslim detainees.

Regretfully, our proposals and actions have been met with stubborn resistance and intransigence on the Sarajevo Muslim side, such as the numerous violations of international humanitarian law in respect of the Nova Bila convoy and the Christmas Eve offensive against the Vitez enclave. Such acts are not only contrary to my Government's peace initiatives but are also contrary to the will of the international community. They may jeopardize the European Union's Action Plan.

My Government is fully aware of the adverse consequences of an escalation of hostilities in the region. Therefore, I strongly appeal to Your Excellency, to spare no reasonable consideration in influencing the Sarajevo Muslim leadership to halt its offensive in Central Bosnia immediately and

unconditionally, and in securing the welfare of tens of thousands imperiled Bosnian Croat civilians in Central Bosnia. This will surely prevent an even larger tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina and create conditions conducive to reaching a just and durable settlement and to bringing peace to the region.

(Signed) Dr. Mate GRANIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Foreign Affairs